

NOMINATION FOR AWARD

AWARD Outstanding Public Affairs Noncommissioned Officer		CATEGORY (If Applicable) E-5 to E-6	AWARD PERIOD 1 Jan - 31 Dec 2002
RANK/NAME OF NOMINEE (First, Middle Initial, Last) TSgt Christopher S. Ball		SSN (Enter Last 4 Only) 8344	MAJCOM, FOA, OR DRU AFMC
DAFSC/DUTY TITLE 3N051/Deputy chief of media and internal information		NOMINEE'S TELEPHONE (DSN & Commercial) DSN 527-3510 Comm (661) 277-3510	
UNIT/OFFICE SYMBOL/STREET ADDRESS/BASE/STATE/ZIP CODE Air Force Flight Test Center Public Affairs, 1 S Rosamond Blvd., Edwards AFB, CA 93524			
RANK/NAME OF UNIT COMMANDER (First, Middle Initial, Last)/COMMANDER'S TELEPHONE (DSN & Commercial) Maj Gen Wilbert D. Pearson Jr. DSN 527-2140 Comm (661) 277-2140 (doug.pearson@edwards.af.mil)			
SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Use single-spaced, bullet format) OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS AND JOB ACCOMPLISHMENT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hardworking, highly-motivated team player willing to perform any task, large or small, necessary to achieve or enhance AFFTC Public Affairs mission of providing proactive guidance and support to AFFTC commander, two wing commanders and various associate units--tireless efforts critical to maintaining PA's high credibility and regularly earning praise from AFFTC commander as "best public affairs office in the Air Force" during base-wide commander's calls and weekly staff meetings - Researched, conducted in-depth interviews and wrote 29 news and feature stories, and took more than 30 photographs for the base newspaper--the majority while working in the media division; many articles picked up by local newspapers, Air Force Times, and AFMC and Air Force News services - Created and executed Edwards' first multi-media training program--combined classroom presentation with hands-on exposure to various video interview scenarios; ensured base leaders, test program officials & others who may encounter media both on and off base were prepared to 'meet the press' - Skillfully executed nine special public affairs training programs tailored to the needs of security forces personnel--thoroughness and professionalism praised by SF commander as valuable training asset - Expertly led production efforts for three major documentaries on the F/A-22 program that led to national and international coverage--highlighted importance of F/A-22 to the global community - Coordinated internal and external media coverage of 2002 Edwards' Open House and Airshow, including Chuck Yeager's last military flight, covered 35 local, national and internal media outlets LEADERSHIP/ORGANIZATIONAL AND PLANNING SKILLS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteered to fill chief of internal vacancy when chief deployed for three months; provided solid, steady leadership to inexperienced newspaper staff--served as positive role model and mentor for two newly-assigned airmen & one activated Reservist who were all in 5-level upgrade training; provided training to incoming lieutenant recently graduated from DINFOS and assigned chief of internal duties - Planned, coordinated and executed comprehensive aerial photography mission to capture still and video images covering operational areas, housing, support facilities, lakebed, airfield and Piute Pond -- Efforts made possible much-needed update to Edwards' still image and video library; new images helped resolve several standing issues--still photos used to immediately solve Piute Pond excess effluent drainage issue onto Rosamond Dry Lake, enabled base fire department to resolve aerial mapping problem, and provided broad, cohesive library morgue used for internal products, such as the base guide and newcomers' videos, as well as meeting needs of film & documentary companies - Painstakingly groomed new airman as next newspaper editor--resulted in a highly-motivated, conscientious editor ready and eager to assume editorial responsibilities after only a two months JUDGEMENT AND DECISIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established weekly face-to-face newspaper planning meetings to include stringers, photographers and base newspaper staff--ensured all efforts fully coordinated and encouraged teamwork and cooperation - Institute daily 5-minute updates to enable newspaper staff to discuss problems or issues relating to their current tasks--kept newspaper process on track, enabled staff to resolve potential problems before they could impact work & created a team-friendly environment credited with improving morale COMMUNICATION SKILLS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global salesman for AF story--handled 16 local, national and international media queries weekly - Successfully coordinated unprecedented coverage of F/A-22 AMRAAM launch to include Aviation Week and Space Technology reporter's flight in chase F-16, one of only a few approved general media flights in high-performance aircraft--result: highly favorable coverage of F/A-22 program - Harnessed talents of base videographers to use organic video assets to film portions of documentaries about Edwards test programs where civilian crews, largely because of their foreign-national status, could not gain access to needed program--result: high-quality products that preserved security, exceeded customer expectations and ensured Edwards' flight test story received worldwide exposure 			